

Armstrong (Jas. H.)

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THE ALBANY HOSPITAL.

1868.

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*Armsby (J. H.)*

# HISTORY

OF THE

## ALBANY CITY HOSPITAL,

AND

### EXTRACTS FROM ADDRESSES

DELIVERED IN ITS BEHALF,

By JAMES H. ARMSBY, M.D.,

IN

1851-1852.



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Albany:  
JOEL MUNSELL.  
1868.





## THE ALBANY HOSPITAL.

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The Albany Hospital was incorporated April 11th, 1849, and was formally opened for the reception of patients November 1st, 1851. A temporary building was at first occupied, on the corner of Lydius and Dove streets, while the present edifice was remodeled and prepared for use.

The first officers of the Board of Management, elected July 14th, 1851, were,

JOHN C. SPENCER, *President.*

EZRA P. PRENTICE, *Vice-President.*

JOEL RATHBONE, *Treasurer.*

FRANKLIN TOWNSEND, *Secretary.*

The late ROBERT TOWNSEND was elected Secretary, August 2d, 1853, and held the office until 1860.

STEPHEN GROESBEECK, the present Secretary, was elected November 21st, 1862.

At the inauguration of the Institution, the late Hon. JOHN C. SPENCER, its first President, who had labored with unremitting zeal in its behalf, commenced the exercises with the following remarks :

I congratulate you, fellow citizens, that, at last, a Hospital for the relief of the poor and the suffering is opened in our ancient city.

The increase of our population, the extension of business, and the collection of travelers by land and by water, at this great central point, renders such an institution not only an act of ordinary humanity, but of absolute necessity.

Our railroads West, North, East and South, the canals terminating here, the river navigation by vessels and steam boats, bringing each day multitudes exposed to all the casualties of travel—in addition to those incident to the



extensive business of an active resident population of 50,000 who are building houses, working factories, excavating earth, and carrying on all the branches of mechanical art, must inevitably produce a vast amount of bodily injury and disease.

To the relief of these our alms-house is not adapted. Its proper office is to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. Necessity has compelled some efforts to provide for it surgical and medical assistance. But from the very nature of the case, such assistance is and must be entirely inadequate.

Under these circumstances, Christian charity has touched the hearts of our citizens, and, with a liberality that honors them, they have opened their purses, and by individual contributions have commenced this Hospital, which we have now met to inaugurate.

The wounded or sick stranger or citizen, destitute of everything but his claim on our common humanity, shall here be received without money and without price; shall here find a home; the most skillful surgical and medical care which science and sympathy can bestow; tender and watchful nurses, the most pure medicines, comfortable beds, warm and airy rooms, and a vigilant superintendence that will guard their slumbers, cheer their convalescence and restore them to their families in health and peace; or afford them all the opportunities for religious consolation according to their own modes of worship, which adverse circumstances may require.

This, generous contributors to this blessed charity, is your work! When, in the silent watches of the night, you are yourselves the victims of disease or injury, your pangs and sufferings will be mitigated by the reflection that you have furnished the means of relieving, for generations to come, so long as laws shall protect your property, the pangs and sufferings of countless thousands. And for ages after you shall have been gathered to your fathers, this stream of your benevolence will continue to flow on, dispensing health to the sick, relief to the agonies of the wounded, comfort and peace to the dying, and to the poor, the greatest of all earthly consolations, that in the hour of their extremity they will not be abandoned to despair. In that last struggle of the soul to quit its tenement, when the glitter of wealth, the toys of ambition, the bubbles of pleasure, shall excite only disgust, the memory of your agency in the promotion of these purposes will bring peace and consolation to your departing spirits, and smooth their passage to that

region where you are assured, by the Inspired Volume, an omnipotent voice will be heard, declaring, "Well done, good and faithful servants;—inasmuch as ye have done this to the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me!"

To the Surgeons and Physicians selected to attend this hospital, we are deeply indebted for the generosity with which they have accepted appointments involving such arduous duties, without other fee or reward than that of an approving conscience. To the well known eminent skill which distinguishes them, they have added another claim to the respect and confidence of this whole community, and have exhibited that genuine practical philanthropy which characterizes their profession.

Still, we must recollect that this is but a commencement—a mere beginning, quite inadequate to what the increasing population, travel and business of this great central point even now requires.

When experience shall have made our citizens and the legislature who assemble here, better acquainted with the full value of this charity, it is to be hoped that private and public benevolence will multiply its means so that it may accomplish its objects, and render it worthy of the political metropolis of this great state.

And may we not hope for God's blessing on this effort "to do unto others as we would that they should do unto us."

The attending Surgeons and Physicians are required to visit the Hospital daily, and oftener when necessary. This service is performed gratuitously.

There are two medical assistants, who reside in the Hospital, and have immediate charge of the patients, under the direction of the attending medical officers.

The Hospital building occupies a commanding position near the Capitol, and embraces an extended and beautiful view of the river scenery and surrounding country. Its situation is open, airy and healthful.

In all cities located on navigable rivers, and at points where railroads centre or terminate, sudden and severe accidents are liable to occur, and at such points well regulated hospitals are most needed. All persons suddenly



stricken down by accident or disease, who are friendless and without means, of necessity become a public charge. This Hospital provides an asylum for patients of this class, where they can be properly provided for and relieved.

The first legacy to the Institution (of \$500), was made by the late Miss Margaret Ten Eyck, through her brother, Jacob H. Ten Eyck, and received on the 2d day of May, 1854. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Governors of the Hospital gratefully acknowledge the genuine benevolence of the late Margaret Ten Eyck, in thus contributing to the relief of the destitute sick; that this communication be placed in the archives of the Hospital, as a perpetual memorial of so much goodness and generosity.

The Hospital has received another legacy from the late James Schuyler of \$2,000, and another from the late Joel Rathbone of \$1,000. These legacies have been added to the invested funds of the Institution, which now amount to about \$30,000. The annual expenses of the Institution are between seven and eight thousand dollars.

Among the various Christian charities of our city, no provision has yet been made for the numerous and deserving poor, who are suffering from incurable diseases.

The Governors and Medical Staff of the Hospital earnestly desire to enlarge, or connect with the Institution, sufficient accommodations for this numerous and worthy class of the community.

To draw a picture of every day experience: A pale young seamstress has prolonged her daily toil far beyond the closing hour of the workwoman's day; the gay robe in which the wealthy patron is soon to appear, at the coming festival, is not quite finished, but the slight form, with cough and hectic flush, toils on until her work is done. The child of fortune enters her costly carriage, and the poor seamstress wends her lonely way on foot in the cold dark night, slightly clad, weary, heavy-hearted with concealed care and suffering, to her cold lodgings. The seeds



of consumption, already sown, are kindled into activity. She is a subject for the Hospital, where, if incurable, the wasting remnant of her days may be soothed by care, comfort and sympathy. No refuge has been provided for such homeless, helpless sufferers. Similiar pictures in every day life might be drawn of the clerk, the mechanic and the laborer. *We rejoice that a generous chord in a noble heart, long filled with kindness, has been retouched and moved to provide for this great want. It is a holy thought, a heavenly purpose, and its realization will do honor to an honored name, and to our ancient city.* If this munificent design could be carried out in connection with our Hospital, it could be more speedily, economically and efficiently accomplished than alone. Individual, municipal and state aid could be more effectually and more hopefully invoked. If we have not the wealth of New York, Philadelphia, Boston or Providence, with which to endow our public charities, we have great and generous hearts who will not suffer this noble offering of a philanthropic mind to remain unsupported, and so beneficent an enterprise to fail in realization.

“Thieves may break in and steal away our gold,  
 The cruel flames may lay our mansions low,  
 A faithless debtor may our dues withhold,  
 Our lands may not return the seed we sow,  
 A spendthrift steward on our gains may thrive,  
 Our ships may founder with our precious store,  
 But wealth bestowed is safe, for what you give,  
 And that, and that alone, is safe forevermore.”

## HOSPITALS,

*Their Origin and History; Extracts from Addresses delivered by Dr. J. H. Armsby in behalf of the Albany City Hospital, 1851 and 1852.*

Another year has been added to our experience, and with its accompanying benefits and burdens has passed away.

Of the events of the past year, in which our profession have a peculiar interest, I know of none of greater importance, or likely to promote more beneficent results, than the establishment of our City Hospital. This long desired institution is at length secured, and the ardent wish of many a heart realized. It is a subject of great congratulation, that so noble a charity has been reared in the midst of us, and a feature in the character of our citizens upon which we can dwell with the purest pleasure; for what can be more noble than the devotion, by the rich and powerful of their means and their efforts, to relieve the wants and soften the misfortunes of the destitute and suffering. \* \*

The *hospital* is the gift of Christianity. The ancient world seems never to have risen to the conception that it was possible by a union of means and an organization of medical and surgical skill, to extend relief to those who were too poor or forsaken to take care of themselves.

Even in the first centuries of ancient Rome, the latest on the list of the earlier civilizations, there were no houses in which *sick* persons were admitted to be taken care of and cured. They had a practice of carrying diseased people to the temples of Esculapius, but for a different purpose than that of receiving medical treatment. No preparations were made for their accommodation, and they relied for a cure upon the God of Medicine, on faith alone, in obedience to a blind superstition.



Those numerous benevolent institutions for the accommodation of travelers, the indigent and the sick, which have done so much honor to modern times, were first introduced by Christianity. The Emperor Julian, called the Apostate, observing the numerous means for alleviating the misfortunes and miseries which were introduced by the new religion, caused his Pagan priests to provide for the poor, and to establish for them inns, into which they could be received, and he also assigned to them funds necessary for their support. In imitation of the Christian principle of extending relief to the wretched, whatever their creed, color or country, he caused to be admitted not only persons of his own religion, but those of every other religious sect.

Provision and care for the sick and destitute poor, belongs properly to governments. But in earlier ages this principle was not recognized, nor is it received with more than partial favor, at the present time in the most enlightened Christian nations.

Houses and homes for the sick were first established by the clergy.

One of the earliest hospitals, for the reception of indigent sick, was built at Rome by Fabiola, a noble Roman lady, a friend of St. Jerome. This munificent charity was founded in the fourth century, and through all time its memory will dwell in the minds of men, with the many other acts of unselfish charity, sympathy and love which history records of woman.

During some of the earlier centuries, religious rites made certain holy places centres of attraction to pilgrims from distant countries. There were then no inns or public houses, in which attention could be bestowed upon those who were in need of them. The clergy encouraged these pilgrimages, and afforded every possible aid for *poor* pilgrims, and all the assistance they could render to the sick and suffering.

The place most important to visit was Jerusalem, and

institutions for the reception of travelers and sick pilgrims were erected by the clergy at an early period, on the road thither. St. Jerome built a hospital at Bethlehem, and his friend Paula caused several to be erected on the road to that village, as she expressed it, that "the devout idlers might fare better than the mother of Christ," who on her journey thither, "could find no inn," and later Irish built hospitals for the use of their countrymen on their pilgrimages to Rome.

But hospitals were not only necessary in settled countries, but were required in desert regions where human habitations were not found; and in wooded, mountainous districts, on the banks of broad rivers, where travelers were stopped for the want of bridges, and collected together in great numbers.

Pope Adrian I commended to the notice of Charlemagne, hospitals built in the Alps, and in 855, Louis II of France, caused those situated on mountains to be repaired. Many of these edifices still exist.

The eleventh century gave birth to the brotherhoods founded in the Holy Land, to provide for the wants of sick pilgrims. These increased to number and wealth with the crusades. The opulent, when dying, often bequeathed to them their property, and those who had found in them consolation and relief, gave them money and effects. The hospitals in Palestine were constructed on a larger scale, provided with better accommodations, and were regarded as models. Princes and rich persons, on returning safe from their pilgrimages, caused similar ones to be established in their own countries forming brotherhoods of Charity.

Some members of these brotherhoods visited Europe, and in the course of time orders of knighthood were established who employed themselves in the erection of hospitals. These hospitals gave great aid to mercantile people, who, in the infancy of trade, when roads were insecure and no public means of conveyance established, were obliged to accompany their merchandise themselves.



The first hospitals for the sick were generally connected with cathedrals and monasteries, and were under the immediate inspection of the bishops or priests. From this, arose the right subsequently exercised by bishops, of visiting institutions for the sick erected by laymen. They did not retain this right in perpetuity, being subsequently deprived of it by princes and sovereigns. But they continued to be ecclesiastical establishments, and hence their exemption from taxes, from warlike visitations, and their enjoyment of privileges similar to churches.

We know little of the internal economy of the earliest houses for the sick. There were no apothecaries, and it is not known in what manner these institutions were supplied with medicines, or even whether physicians or surgeons were attached to them.

In the hospitals at Jerusalem, knights and nobles attended the sick, bound up their wounds, and acted as their physicians. It appears from the books of knight-errantry written in the middle ages, that the knights were in the habit of dressing each other's wounds, but they could not have had much skill in surgery or medicine. The extent of their acquirements may be inferred from Guy de Chauliac, who wrote on the healing of wounds in the year 1363. He mentions several medical sects, and among these names the German knights as the fourth sect; who, he says, cured wounds by exorcism, beverages, oil, wool, etc., and believed that God conferred supernatural power upon plants and stones, in curing disease.

The first mention which we find of physicians and surgeons in houses for the sick in the order of Templars, is in 1451, under the government of John de Lastic, who, on assuming the office of grand master, defined with great precision the duty of physicians and surgeons. It is probable that hospitals had physicians and surgeons at an earlier period, and the attempt to define their duties imply that such offices had previously existed.

In the East, hospitals and asylums for the insane are

first found. As early as the year 491 there was an establishment at Jerusalem, the chief object of which was to take care of such monks as became insane in the monasteries; or such hermits as were visited by the same affliction in the deserts. And in after ages, when philosophy and the refinements of life were equally sought on the sands of Arabia, the hospitals received the attention of the rich and powerful; nor were such institutions less attractive among the splendors of the great city of Bagdad in the days of its magnificence.

Under the sovereignty of the caliphs, this city was the seat of a very refined civilization. In the twelfth century there were many hospitals there, and belonging to them were nearly sixty dispensaries, which distributed at public expense the necessary medicines. A large building called the "House of Grace," received those who lost their reason. They were kept there in chains till they were cured or died, and every month this house was visited by the magistrates, who examined the state of the patients, and suffered those who had recovered their reason to return to their friends.

The first idea of rendering hospitals instructive to young physicians had its origin in the East. In Persia at a very early period, some Nestorian priests had a hospital near their monasteries with an institute for students, who, under prescribed rules, were allowed to visit the sick. The town of Gaudisapora had a medical school so early as the seventh century. Students were obliged to pass an examination in medicine and to read the psalms of David and the New Testament. Many of those who studied medicine there afterwards attained to high ecclesiastical dignity.

The first large establishment for invalids described in history was at Constantinople in the time of the Emperor Alexius Comnenus, near the end of the eleventh century. He caused several large buildings around a church, to be fitted up as a hospital. Other historians say that he only enlarged to an uncommon degree an old institution. Sick



and indigent persons of both sexes, and of every age, and soldiers dismissed from service, were admitted and provided with bed, board and clothing. The Emperor secured to this institution several sources of revenue.

The occasion which led to the erection of hospitals in Europe, was the introduction by returning crusaders of the diseases prevalent in the East. The disease which proved the most formidable and destructive to life, was leprosy, which rendered the erection of hospitals for this disease, a matter of necessity, as well as charity. Houses for their reception were termed in France, *Leproseries* and *Maladeries*, and were very numerous, amounting in that kingdom alone, at the close of the reign of Louis VIII, to two thousand, and in the different countries of Europe, at the close of the thirteenth century, to nineteen thousand,

These gradually became unnecessary, as the disease which had occasioned their foundation by degrees disappeared.

Hospital establishments in Europe were at first entrusted solely to the priesthood. This led to great abuse, the administrators turning to their own profit what was originally designed for the relief of the sick, so that hospitals became, in fact, little else than benefices for the private individuals who had the direction of them. These abuses in their administration finally became so great as to attract the attention of the church; and the councils of Vienna, and subsequently of Trent, forbade the giving away any charitable institution under the name of a benefice, and ordered that the management of hospitals should be entrusted to laymen, of good character, who, under the sanction of an oath, should act as guardians, and make up regular accounts of the manner in which the funds were administered.

The ordinance of Blois, in France, assuming as its basis the decision of the council of Trent, enjoined that the administrators of hospitals should be neither ecclesiastics, nobles, nor officers, but simple citizens, possessing business

habits, and whose nomination was confirmed by the founders of the hospitals.

In France the hospital establishments can be traced back to a very early period in history, yet few of them were able to survive the disorders of the country. Two only of the earliest hospitals exist at the present day. These are the Hotel Dieu of Lyons, founded by Childebert and the Hotel Dieu of Paris, founded under Clovis II. To these two great establishments belongs an historical interest, which adds to their present celebrity as the great fountain-heads of charity in the two first cities of the kingdom.

The French monarchs enjoyed from the earliest time a right of sending to abbeys and monasteries such officers and soldiers as were unfit for further service, and more especially such as had been wounded. This practice can be traced back to the time of Charlemagne, but the complaints against it became so great under Henry IV, that he resolved to have all invalids lodged and maintained in one place. But the revenues were found insufficient to maintain them, and they were again distributed. The abbeys and monasteries finally purchased exemption from this burden by giving an annual pension to their guests. But the result of this was, that they soon spent all their money, and then fell into a state of extreme poverty. Louis XIII attempted to found an hospital for invalids, but failed to complete it for want of funds.

In the year 1670, Louis XIV commenced the erection of the Hotel des Invalides, in a style of princely magnificence. It is still one of the noblest structures in Paris, and a monument of the profusion and pride of that monarch.

The establishments of charity in Paris, and the details connected with their administration, are placed under the charge of a general council and of an administrative commission, the whole being subject to the superior jurisdiction of the Minister of the Interior. This council is



charged with the whole general management of the hospitals, hospices and public institutions of charity of the capital, and with the general expenditure and state of the revenues. They regulate every branch of the administration, calculate the regular expenses of each, and under the authority of the Minister of the Interior, determine the number of inmates to be admitted, also the number and salaries of persons employed in them, and in the various offices connected with their administration. They also extend their superintendence to all private committees and associations of charity, the state of which they report to the Minister of the Interior.

The civil hospitals of Paris are divided into three classes,

1st. General hospitals, which are open to complaints for which a special hospital is not provided. The Hotel Dieu is the principal of these.

2d. Special hospitals, which are destined to the sole treatment of particular classes of disorders, such, for example, as the cutaneous, mental, &c.

3d. Hospices or alms-houses.

The whole number of those under the care and direction of the council general of hospitals are thirty-six, and each hospital and most of the hospices are provided with a director, appointed by the administration, who superintends the general arrangement and internal police of the institution; and with surgeons and physicians proportionate to the number of beds contained in the hospital. They are required to pay a daily morning visit to their patients, and regulate minutely their treatment, after which they prescribe in rotation for such out-door patients as present themselves at the hospital for advice. They are also provided with apothecaries, with internes or resident physicians, or externes or dressers, with students of Pharmacy, with sisters of charity, with a priest and a steward.

The revenues which support the hospital establishment of France are derived from various sources. One is pro-

perty, consisting in houses, lands, manufactories, forests, vineyards and other possessions, and the rents and income derived from them; another, donations and legacies, which now form a permanent and highly productive fund. The aggregate of these made to the hospitals and the poor of France, during a period of ten years, amounted to more than one million one hundred thousand pounds sterling (£1,100,000). Another source consists of money paid by persons admitted into the hospitals and hospices; another is the tax which is levied upon the theatres and places of public amusement. This is ten per cent. on all money received at the theatres; it amounts to one-fourth of the net receipts of all balls, public gardens, and amusements of every kind; this, in 1822, amounted to nearly twenty-six thousand pounds. Another source of revenue is the excise; this is a very productive one. In Paris alone, they receive an annual sum of more than £200,000.

The advances made in all the practical departments of medicine and surgery, have placed the physicians and surgeons of Paris at the head of their profession, perhaps in the world. This may be, in no small degree, owing to the immensely diversified forms of disease and varieties of medical and surgical practice, which is offered them in the numerous hospitals and hospices. Some of the best physicians and surgeons in the world have been the attendants upon the hospitals of Paris. Such as Dupuytren, Roux, Velpau, Louis, Rostan, Chomel, Andral, and many others of equal celebrity, have been found performing their duties as physicians and surgeons in these hospitals. It is reasonable to suppose that the superior knowledge, skill and dexterity attained by these men have, in no small degree, resulted from the facilities afforded them to perfect themselves by practice.

From the statistics of the year 1844, the total number of patients admitted into the general hospitals of Paris, was 80,006.

In Paris there are a great number of hospitals, in



Vienna but one general hospital (1844.) The principle of centralization is powerfully displayed in everything Austrian. In the early part of the eighteenth century there existed several minor hospitals in Vienna, but toward the close the Emperor Joseph the Second, son of Maria Theresa, suppressed all except those of the sisters and brothers of charity, and applied the revenues to the erection of one immense establishment, centering in that one the forces of them all.

This is the largest hospital on the continent of Europe, and probably in the world. The building is a vast quadrangle, three stories high, inclosing in its area one large and ten minor courts, the interiors of which are tastefully laid out, intersected by graveled walks, bordered by rows of trees, and ornamented with shrubs and flowers. It contains 104 wards, independent of those contained in the lying-in and lunatic asylums; is furnished with 2,214 beds, 1,247 for males, and 967 for females. It receives from 18,000 to 20,000 patients annually. Within it is contained the residences of the priests, directors, professors, physicians and other medical attendants; the chapels, the pharmacy, the compounding apartment, pathological museums, library, lecture rooms, operating theatre, dead houses, dissecting rooms, baths and laundry. All the persons contained within its walls amount to over 3,500, while it treats upwards of 30,500 patients annually.

The wards of the ground floor are occupied by patients requiring surgical treatment; and those of the upper by persons laboring under acute diseases. The whole is disposed under six medical, four surgical, and four clinical divisions. The whole medical staff consists of seventy-six persons, who, with the exception of the professors of medicine and surgery, reside within the hospital.

The hospital is divided into three great departments, the medical and surgical, the lying-in and the lunatic asylum. There is no institution of the kind in the world that furnishes medical relief upon a scale so immense, or

affords greater opportunities of studying disease, or confines within such clear and defined limits the several branches into which medical science may be divided.

Independent of the different clerks and general servants not in immediate attendance upon the sick, there are 389 medical attendants, making one attendant for every eight beds.

The medical officers visit the wards twice a day, from seven to nine in the morning, and at four in the afternoon; the morning being the chief visit, and that at which the medicine is prescribed and the diet regulated.

The whole hospital is under the government of a director and vice-director, appointed by the medical department of the State, and they appoint the officers under them.

If the patient has the ability, he must pay the charges for his reception, and the medicines, care and attendance bestowed upon him.

If he is unable, and if his friends are in circumstances to afford it, then they are required to pay for his care and treatment.

If it satisfactorily appears that neither himself nor his friends are able to pay, then his expenses are to be paid by his parish, or the district to which he belongs.

Masters are compelled to pay the expenses of their servants at the hospital.

The different guilds and corporations pay a yearly sum to the hospital for the members of their bodies.

Patients sent from the country, who are affected with unusual diseases, are paid for by the district to which they happen at the time to belong.

There are three different classes, having three different grades of accommodation, the amounts required to be paid respectively varying according to the goodness of these accommodations. Manufacturers are required to pay for those in their employment in the third class.

Should a foreigner be compelled to seek relief in this hospital, his ambassador would be served with a bill of his expenses, which his country is expected to pay.

The rich and noble are neither taxed nor permitted to support, by voluntary contributions, the hospitals and asylums of their country. It is, perhaps, taxing their means sufficiently to support an expensive government and an immense standing army to overawe the people.

Connected with this hospital is the lying-in department, in which the arrangements for secrecy are such that a female may enter, and depart from the hospital, without her name being known, or even her face seen by the physician or any of the attendants. They may appear masked, veiled, or otherwise disguised. They may enter at any time and remain as long as is necessary, and carry their infants away with them, or send them to the foundling hospitals, through the medical attendants.

There are two kinds of patients received into this hospital — the paying and the non-paying.

Married women are admitted only on certificate of their poverty, and then their relatives are compelled to pay for them, or, if they have none, their expenses are to be defrayed by their district, parish or village.

The unmarried are admitted, if poor, free of all charge.

Immediately connected with the general hospital of Vienna is the Foundling Hospital, which not only affords protection to children who are deprived of the care of parents, but also removes as much as possible the moral and social disabilities under which illegitimate children and their parents labor.

In England the hospital followed the Reformation. A new impetus was given to this and kindred charities, which contributed largely to their after-growth and increase. The dissolution of the monasteries, and the abolition of the monastic orders, laid a foundation highly favorable for these institutions. The first effect was to deprive the poor of the only public charities which they could solicit without shame; but in the spirit of Montesquieu's critique upon the acts of Henry, the very fact



that vigorous men might receive alms from these institutions without losing caste, condemns them as eleemosynary institutions. Public relief, when bestowed upon the well and strong indiscriminately with the sick, degrades the national character. In this spirit the violence of the king promoted the good of his people, and more especially as from the large sums of money received by him on the suppression of the monasteries, he was induced to convert some of them into hospitals, with permanent revenues. These revenues were not large. The sympathies of that age were more strongly with war, profuse expense and splendid state, than with benevolence and charities. A beginning was thus made. *St. Bartholomew's hospital* was property once belonging to the priory of St. Bartholomew, and to which, on the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII left nearly 500 marks a year on condition that the city should add 500 more for the relief of sick and poor people. The great *Bethlehem* hospital, more commonly known as *Bedlam*, was originally a priory, and was given to the city of London in 1547 by Henry VIII, and employed for the accommodation of lunatics.

*Christ's hospital* was a monastery of Grey Friars. It was dissolved by Henry VIII, and granted by him to the city of London in 1547, which grant was confirmed by charter of Edward VI, who converted it into a hospital for poor children.

It is a beautiful law to which our nature is subject, that, in works of benevolence and charity, men never retrograde, unless in consequence of some fearful overthrow, or great revolution in human affairs. Wherever these noble virtues are planted in the breasts of men, they so commend themselves to our moral nature that even where the promptings of that nature are weak compared with the resistless might of the propensities and passions, still the good influence increases, and the heart becomes more susceptible to emotions of kindness and sympathy with the suffering.

These reflections are sustained by the history of English charities for the relief of the poor and sick.

English hospitals have been divided into two great classes, general and special.

They are not, as in Paris, under the administration of the State, but each is managed by a Board of Governors, constituted of persons giving donations or a yearly subscription to a certain amount. This board appoints the physicians and surgeons, who render gratuitous service; and the members of it recommend the patients. To each of these hospitals is attached a school of medicine and surgery, with museums, libraries, &c., where the medical officers of the institution lecture to such pupils as the reputation of the school may attract, the fees paid by whom are the only compensation received.

The special hospitals are about thirty in number, having altogether nearly 3,000 beds.

In addition to these two classes of hospitals, there are in London about thirty or forty dispensaries for the relief of in and out-door patients. Some of these are provident societies in which an annual subscription is necessary of secure aid and attendance during sickness.

These various institutions amount to over *one hundred*, of which all but thirty-three have been founded since the year 1800. Their united income is two million dollars, of which about one fourth, is from voluntary contributions. The number of out and in-door patients, annually treated, nearly six hundred thousand.

The London hospitals compared with those on the Continent are inferior in extent of accommodation and are conducted on a less liberal plan. Nor are they equal in reputation as schools of medicine. Internal arrangements to promote the comfort of the patient, and in the care, good nursing and attention bestowed, they have no superiors. In those provided by the nation, as asylums for the poor and disabled members of the army and navy, the most liberal provision is made. In the Greenwich Hospital each inmate is allowed per week 7 one pound loaves of bread, 3 pounds of beef, 2 of mutton, a pint of

peas, one and a quarter pounds of cheese, 2 ounces of butter. 14 pints of beer and one shilling for tobacco money. An extensive library, a nautical museum, and fine collection of portraits of distinguished naval commanders, marine views and battle pieces, are also open to the pensioners. This collection consists of 141 paintings, and is contained in one of the most splendid apartments in England. This room, called "the Great Hall," was designed by Sir Christopher Wren, and is a noble work of art, the fresco painting on the walls alone costing nearly £7,000.

In this country most of the large cities have made provision for hospitals; not on the magnificent scale adopted in England for such undertakings, but still respectable. Our revenues will not justify extravagant outlays for buildings and architectural ornaments. Neither would public opinion sanction such a course. No one of our hospital buildings has cost as much as the chapel, alone, in Greenwich Hospital; the expenditure on which, with the internal decorations, amounted to £84,000.

The revenues of our hospitals are of course limited, as they are chiefly derived from individual benefaction. This is the legitimate source from which such institutions should derive their means of support. It is the organization of private charity for public purposes. It tends to soften and humanize the heart of the giver, at the same time the benefaction is contributing to relieve the most distressing forms of misery with which we are acquainted.

The hospital reared in Albany is, *altogether* the work of *individuals*. The fact that individuals subscribing and paying certain sums of money, became in consequence thereof entitled to send a certain number of patients to the hospital, by no means divests the act of that benevolent character to which it would otherwise be entitled. It is giving to donors the selection of the objects of their own charity, a feature which strongly commends itself to every generous mind.



We, as medical men, are pledged to this enterprise. Our position, our pride and our interest imperiously demand in its behalf our most earnest efforts. As a home institution, it addresses to us its appeals for aid. As a charity connected with our profession, our honor is concerned in its success. As a school of medicine, it will enlarge our experience—furnish opportunities for investigation and severe study—and to the student materials for varied illustration.

Courage! Friends of the Albany Hospital! If as yet it has little reputation, there is greater need to create an honorable one. The prestige of antiquity, of rich charities, of museums, of noble sculpture, of galleries of art, is alone the work of time. The munificence of kings, and the splendid gratitude of the nation, have thus royally endowed the institutions of England; but beyond the favor of princes or of people, is the renown of their great deeds and the glory of their great names. Not the curious sculpture, the rare art and costly architecture, alone are for us to envy or to emulate; but great deeds and great names are the reward of patient effort and determined will. To these we aspire.

The circumstances under which the earliest settlements in this country were made, and the character of the settlers, contributed to the early origin and subsequent growth of charitable institutions. The equality of condition, which everywhere prevailed, led to a more hearty union and co-operation in all matters pertaining to the general good. Concert of action was with them a matter of necessity. And so far as it related to hospitals, it was aided in no small degree by the social and benevolent feelings which exist in all communities of recent origin, where like pursuits and common dangers and hardships bind together in brotherhood and mutual dependence.

In the early settlement of this, as of all other countries, there was a want of *means* to build up institutions attended with great expense. Notwithstanding this obstacle, we

find the early colonists busily engaged in founding such institutions, and both individuals and colonial governments uniting to build them up as monuments to proclaim their greatness and goodness.

They have not sprung so suddenly into existence, nor had so rapid a growth as many of those on the Eastern continent. The sources of their supply have generally been more numerous, but the supplies themselves much less abundant. In the old world, the streams that have nourished them have flowed from reservoirs in which strong and despotic governments have gathered the hard earnings of the people of mighty empires; while ours have been fed by the thousand rills, that have coursed their way spontaneously, bearing each its humble tribute to the grand result.

One good consequence resulting from this has been, that our institutions of this character have been strong in the affections of the people. They have been too much the *people's own work*, not to experience from them the most powerful sympathy and support.

Hospital institutions, in this country, had their origin in lazarettes, or places for the reception of diseased seamen and others who were infected with contagious diseases. A hospital of this kind was established at Rainsford island, in the harbor of Boston, nearly two centuries ago. Another at a very early period, was erected on Staten Island, and used for similar purposes for the port of Philadelphia. After the practice of inoculation was established, hospitals became common in different parts of the country, to receive patients and carry through that process those who desired it. These were temporary, and generally the results of individual enterprise.

The first regular hospital in this country was established in the city of Philadelphia, near the close of 1750. Philadelphia then contained less than 30,000 inhabitants. Dr. Thomas Bond commenced a subscription, and Dr. Benjamin Franklin, through the medium of newspaper publi-

cations, led the public mind in the same direction. But the resources of the city were then quite limited, and it was soon discovered that the enterprise was beyond individual ability, and that resource must be had to the Provincial Assembly. Accordingly a memorial asking for a charter and for pecuniary assistance was presented to that body in January, 1751. But here a difficulty presented itself. The *country* members could not understand how their constituents could be benefited by such an institution located in the city of Philadelphia. This difficulty was at length overcome by the ingenuity of Dr. Franklin. He suggested to these members to make a grant of *two thousand pounds*, on condition that the city should raise by voluntary subscription, for the same purpose, an equal amount of money. Accordingly the grant was made upon such conditions, and the citizens of Philadelphia, determining not to lose the benefit of it, set themselves at work with renewed energy to procure the necessary amount. Thus was incorporated and commenced, on a capital of four thousand pounds (about \$10,000 of the currency of that period), the Pennsylvania Hospital. In order that their work of charity should not be delayed, a private house was hired for a temporary hospital, which was opened in February, 1752, and two patients were received. In December, 1754, was purchased, for five hundred pounds, the entire square (with a small exception), on which the hospital now stands, then a lot quite out of town.

The present structure was originated and the corner stone of the east wing laid May 28, 1755. In December, 1756, the house was so far completed as to receive patients.

New subscriptions were set on foot, and all ranks and classes were solicited to subscribe. Many bequests were also made to the institution. Within the first thirty years more than five thousand pounds were received, in sums varying from twenty to more than a thousand pounds.



Some aid was also obtained from other provinces, and from the mother country, and in 1762 the Provincial Assembly made another grant of three thousand pounds. The institution had so far increased that, in April, 1776, on the breaking out of the war, the capital stock, independent of buildings and lot, was valued at \$56,000, and the annual income was about \$3,500. A medical library had, in the meantime, been collected for the use of the medical officers. The internal affairs of the institution were superintended by a steward and matron, while the care of patients was entrusted to the physicians and surgeons, and to students or apprentices living within the institution.

But the war of the revolution came, and with it all the changes and convulsions to which it necessarily gave birth. The British army entered Philadelphia, and took possession of the hospital, its wards, beds, medicines, instruments, &c. This occupation, however, was only temporary, but the immediate results of the revolutionary struggle were almost overwhelming. The cessation of subscriptions, the rise in the cost of living, the payment of debts and income due the institution in the depreciated currency of the country, which was made legal tender by an act of the general government, altogether came very near utterly destroying this flourishing charity. The legislature came to its aid in 1780, granting the munificent sum of ten thousand pounds (the real value at that time, owing to the greatly depreciated currency, being only one hundred and sixty-three pounds, eighteen shillings and eight-pence). In 1785 its *loss* of productive capital was ascertained to exceed eight thousand pounds, and its expenses, although greatly reduced, doubled its fixed income. In 1788-9 only 77 patients were admitted during the whole year, the average number in the house at one time was 47, these being mostly incurable lunatics.

But the board of managers, at the head of which was Samuel Coates, now commenced a series of efforts to

retrieve the affairs of the institution. They made a new appeal to the public; solicited subscriptions personally from the citizens; collected in their debts and legacies; brought to a legal settlement all disputed claims, and excited in the public mind a renewed interest, in consequence of which they began to find themselves in the receipt of legacies.

An application was again made to the legislature in 1792, which resulted in an act granting to the hospital the sum of ten thousand pounds, and also the unclaimed dividends of bankrupts' estates, which yielded, in the end, \$19,000.

A further grant of \$25,000 was made in 1796, so that out of all, the hospital realized something more than \$70,000, which was applicable to the erection of buildings. This was the last aid ever given to the hospital by the legislature.

In 1802, a lying-in department for poor and deserving married women was established, and in 1807 a regular dispensary for poor out-door patients, and physicians were appointed to attend them at a small salary.

In 1808, the property of the hospital was for the first time, assessed. The institution, after a long struggle against this practice, finally obtained a partial relief in 1814, and complete relief in 1845, the Legislature then exempting from taxation the whole real and personal estate of the institution.

The productive capital of the hospital, at its lowest point of depression, at the close of the revolutionary war, in 1783, was \$27,000; in 1793 it was \$45,000; in 1803, \$62,000; in 1823, \$172,000; and in 1833, \$260,000. Its income rose from \$1,000, its lowest point in 1796, to nearly \$15,000, in 1835 and to \$20,000 in 1851.

The number of admissions in 1790 was 78; in 1800, 176; in 1810, 368; in 1820, 749; and in 1830, 1,130; after which the average, for several years, was something over 1,000. The average population in the house at one time, rose from 46 to 225.

In the year 1830, the propriety or necessity of having separate accommodations for the insane began to be discussed. Their number had greatly increased; their accommodations were insufficient; and the new views developed relative to their treatment, could not be carried out under the existing regulations. The contributors were called together, and at their meeting in May, 1831, they decided on having a separate asylum for the insane. At subsequent meetings they authorized a sale of the vacant grounds owned by the hospital, which were situated east, west, and southwest of the hospital buildings, to raise money for the erection of *new* buildings.

These grounds were originally purchased at less than \$9,000, and the avails of the sale at this time amounted to the large sum of \$325,000.

The site selected for the new asylum was two miles west of the city; the tract purchased contained about 100 acres. The corner stone of "The Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane," was laid June 22, 1836, and the house was opened for the reception of patients on the 1st of January, 1841.

The resources of the Pennsylvania hospital consist of an invested productive capital of \$370,000, which yields an income of about \$20,000. In the year ending in May, 1851, the number received into the hospital was 1,935, of whom 1,416 were on the charity list; the average population of the house being 158, of which 120 were poor. More than a century has now elapsed since its foundation. During that period it has received and treated 51,116 patients, of whom 29,863 were upon the poor list.

For many years there have been in attendance upon the practice of the hospital, and upon the clinical lectures, several hundred medical students; perfecting themselves in medical and surgical knowledge.



*Extracts from the Annual Report to the Contributors to the  
Pennsylvania Hospital for 1867.*

The Board of Managers, in laying before you an account of their proceedings for the past year, can do so under some feeling of relief from the anxiety which they expressed at the time of your last annual meeting as regarded the financial condition of the Hospital; they then felt that the income from the permanent fund of the contributors would fall far short of meeting the current expenses for the support of the Institution.

The committee you then appointed to solicit contributions has been attentive to the duty, and though they entered upon it with reluctance, feeling they were engaging in no pleasant vocation, yet they have been greatly encouraged, having met with so liberal a response from many of those upon whom they called as to convince us they were only waiting to be asked, cheerfully and liberally to aid; and we doubt not, could we but reach in our appeal all those whose hearts beat with sympathy for the sick and suffering applying to us for relief, the needed funds for our permanent endowment could be realized in a few weeks.

The efforts of the committee, so far, have added, as specified by the donors, \$20,400 to the capital, and \$136,556 applicable to the general expenses as, from time to time, acquired, mostly payable in annual subscriptions running through terms of three, four or five years. This will nearly meet our wants for the period through which these annual subscriptions are payable, and we trust the liberal donors may experience so great satisfaction in thus, from year to year, contributing to the relief of the poor sufferers sent to us, not from our immediate surroundings only, but from all parts of our State (the easy and speedy transit from distant parts by railway placing those receiving accidental injuries at great distances, within reach of our wards within the time prescribed for their admission), as to induce them to continue their payments for a longer term of years, and that in our city and State there are those who may add to the capital of the Institution to such an amount as will enable the managers to meet all the wants and extend largely the benefits of the Hospital.

The number of patients treated during the year at the Hospital has been 1944. Of this number 703 were in the

medical and 1,241 in the surgical wards. Of these 734 were cases of accidental injuries.

Some of the surgical cases have been of a novel and very interesting character. The cost for each patient has been about \$30. The average number in the house has been 170, and time each has remained under care was  $31\frac{1}{2}$  days.

The ladies who associated some two years since to visit the wards of the Hospital, for reading and converse with the patients, have continued their care during the year, and it is very gratifying to learn from the association of their encouragement in this good work. We believe their labors have been blessed to many of the visited, shortening the tedium of the sick bed and lightening the hours of suffering.

Feeling the advantage of mental occupation for those able to avail themselves of it, there has been a commencement made toward enlarged ward libraries for the use of the patients.

Such is the Pennsylvania hospital; a monument of the wisdom, philanthropy and energy of its founders; of the liberality of individuals and the munificence of legislatures. The unfailing refuge of the diseased and destitute, more than 50,000 sufferers having been received and provided for within its walls (1851). The means of education thus afforded have been applied to great advantage for the purposes of medical investigation and improvement, and for the benefit of mankind.

The New York hospital was commenced twenty years later; the application to the legislature having been made in 1770, and the act of incorporation passed 13th June, 1771. The charter committed the government of the institution to twenty-six governors, who held their first meeting on the 25th of July, 1771. In the next year an act of the legislature of the province granted in aid of the institution the annual allowance of £800 (\$2,000), for twenty years.

In 1773 about five acres of ground were purchased for the erection of a building, the foundation of which was laid on the 27th of July of the same year; but on the 28th

of February, 1775, when almost completed, it accidentally took fire and was nearly consumed.

In March of the same year, the legislature again came to their aid, and granted them the sum of £4,000 to enable them to rebuild the house.

The occurrence of the revolutionary war prevented the completion of the edifice. During the war the British and Hessian soldiers occupied the house as a barrack, and sometimes as a hospital.

The general derangement of all affairs, particularly of a monetary character, consequent upon the revolutionary struggle, prevented any attention to the hospital until the beginning of the year 1791, when the house was fitted up for the reception of patients, and eighteen were admitted.

The annual sum granted for twenty years, in 1772, ceased with the breaking out of the revolution, but the Legislature of the State, in March, 1788, made a grant to the Hospital of eight hundred pounds during four years, to be paid out of moneys arising from the excise of the city of New York. At the expiration of this time the legislature made a grant of £2,000 a year, for five years, payable out of the same fund. At the expiration of three years from the time of this last grant, and on the 31st of March, 1795, the legislature repealed the act last mentioned, but granted to the Hospital £4,000 annually for five years, payable out of duties on auction sales in the city of New York. In 1796 the legislature granted an additional £1,000 a year, for four years, payable out of the same fund. In 1801, the annual allowance of \$12,500 was continued for five years from the 1st of February, 1800.

At the expiration of this time, and on the 2d March, 1805, an act was passed continuing this sum for five years longer. This last act was repealed in 1806, and a new act passed, directing the sum of \$12,000 annually to be paid (out of duties on auction sales), to the treasurer of the hospital, in quarter payments, until the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven.



There were other incidental aids granted by the legislature. In 1796, an act was passed directing the harbor-master of the port of New York to pay certain fines to the treasurer of the New York hospital.

An arrangement was made in 1779 between the Treasury Department of the United States and the hospital, by which the sick and disabled seamen at the port of New York were to be received into the hospital and to enjoy its advantages, on the payment of their board by the United States government.

So early as 1796, the commencement was made of a medical library for the use of the hospital, by an appropriation being ordered by the governors of the sum of \$500 for that purpose. This was increased in 1800 by the purchase of the medical library of the late Dr. Romaine, and by the accession, in 1805, of the library of an association of physicians, who gave their books on condition that they and such of their sons as should become physicians in the city of New York, should have the free use of the hospital library. In 1805, the annual sum of \$250 was appropriated by the governors for the purchase of books. Annual appropriations have been made since, and a valuable library collected.

The same practice prevailed here as in the Pennsylvania hospital in its early history in regard to lunatics. They were received and taken care of, although the accommodations were inconvenient and inadequate, the building not having been designed for that purpose.

These applications constantly increasing, a petition was presented to the Legislature in 1806, asking for such further aid as would enable them to erect a separate building, to be used as an asylum for the insane, or to give greater permanence to the existing allowance. On the 14th of March, 1806, the Legislature passed an act continuing the annual provision for the hospital, payable out of the duties arising on sales at auction in the city of New York, until

the year 1857. Immediately upon this, the governors of the hospital proceeded to erect the lunatic asylum, which was completed on the 15th of July, 1808, when it was opened for the reception of lunatics, and nineteen were removed from the hospital building and forty-eight others admitted, making, in all, the number of 67. The whole original cost of the asylum was about \$56,000.

To assist the governors of the hospital, and enable them to discharge the debts contracted in building the asylum, the Legislature, by an act passed 23d March, 1810, granted to the hospital the sum of \$3,500 per annum for the term of ten years, payable out of the auction duties in the city of New York. This was, however, repealed on the 15th April, 1817.

But previous to this repeal, and on the 17th April, 1816, an act was passed granting the hospital the yearly sum of \$10,000 until the year 1857, to enable the governors to erect further and more extensive accommodations for insane patients. About eighty acres were purchased, and a building erected 211 feet in length and 60 feet in depth, with two wings, the main edifice being completed and opened for patients in June, 1821, when it received the name of the "Bloomingdale Asylum." Other buildings were subsequently erected in 1830 and 1837, making the entire cost of all the buildings and improvements, up to the 1st of January, 1789, about \$200,000. This, however, included bedding, furniture, and other things necessary for the accommodation of its inmates.

In 1821 the lunatics then in the asylum in town were transferred to the Bloomingdale asylum. In 1825, after undergoing some repairs, it was converted into a hospital for the accommodation of sick and disabled seamen, for which it has ever since been used, and is known by the name of the "Marine Department of the New York Hospital.

The hospital is under the management of twenty-six

governors, whose services are rendered gratuitously. Persons laboring under incurable diseases, or having the small pox, measles or any infectious disease, are not admitted to the privileges of the hospital. There are a visiting committee, who superintend the admission of patients, and an inspecting committee, whose duty it is to see that the by-laws and regulations relative to the management and economy of the house are duly observed.

There are four physicians and six surgeons, who give their attendance at the hospital. They are selected from among the most eminent of the profession, and are appointed annually by the governors. Both the physicians and surgeons perform their services gratuitously.

In addition to these, there are house physicians and surgeons residing constantly in the hospital, who are young men, medical graduates, appointed for one year.

An apothecary, also residing in the house, has charge of the apothecary's shop, and compounds and makes up all medicines prescribed according to the directions of the physicians and surgeons. It is the duty of the house physicians and surgeons to visit the wards every morning and evening, and to report the state of the patients to the attending physicians and surgeons.

The superintendent is the steward of the hospital, and together with the matron, is charged with the domestic management and economy of the institution.

The sources of income in the New York hospital (in 1853), were the following:

The duties on sales at auction in the City of	
New York, annually,.....	\$12,500
For care of U. S. disabled seamen, about,.....	15,500
For board of paying patients, about,.....	8,000
For articles sold, about,.....	100
And in subscription for membership,.....	700

From all these various sources the average income, for the ten years immediately preceding the year 1849 was



\$37,538.16, while the average expenditure for the same period of time was \$39,362.

The library attached to the hospital now numbers (1851), 5,500 volumes while it has a respectable pathological cabinet.

The total number received into the New York hospital, from its foundation to the year 1850, amount to 86,090. Of these the large number of 62,183 have been discharged cured. The number of 5,519 have been relieved; 5,382 have been discharged at their own request; 1,346 have been discharged as improper subjects; 2,725 have eloped or been discharged as disorderly, and 8,687 have died.

The following abstract statement shows the receipts and expenditures from all sources and all accounts, under their respective heads, during the year 1866:

*Receipts and Payments of the Institution, from all Sources,  
during the year 1866.*

Balance in Bank of America to the credit of the Asylum Dec 31, 1865,.....	\$483 60
Balance in hands of warden of the Asylum December 31, 1865,.....	150 00
Received on account of the New York Hos- pital,.....	76,745 83
Received on account of the Bloomingdale Asylum,.....	99,351 15
Received interest,.....	44 25
“ donations,.....	4,869 55
“ rent of north building,.....	1,686 66
“ grant from the State of New York for 1864,.....	15,000 00
“ grant from the State of New York for 1865,.....	12,000 00
Balance due Bank of Commerce, December 31, 1866,.....	16,205 68
	<hr/>
	\$226,536 72

Balance due Bank of Commerce, December 31, 1865, .....	\$27,084 10
Paid on account of support of New York Hospital, .....	98,267 87
Paid on account of support of Bloomingdale Asylum, .....	95,651 07
Paid interest on bonds to bank for savings, .....	4,200 00
Balance in Bank of America to credit of the Asylum, December 31, 1866, .....	1,333 68
	<hr/>
	<u>\$226,536 72</u>

The financial condition of this corporation on the 31st December, 1866, stands thus, as compared on the 31st December, 1865.

On the 31st December, 1865, it stood thus:

Debt on mortgage, .....	\$70,000 00	
“ to Bank of Commerce, .....	27,084 10	
	<hr/>	\$97,084 10
Deduct balance in Bank of America to credit of Asylum, .....	\$483 60	
Deduct balance in the hands of warden, .....	150 00	
	<hr/>	633 60
		<hr/>
		<u>\$96,450 50</u>

On 31st December, 1866:

Debt on mortgage, .....	\$70,000 00	
“ to Bank of Commerce, .....	16,205 68	
	<hr/>	\$86,205 68
Deduct balance in Bank of America to credit of Asylum, .....	1,333 68	
	<hr/>	<u>\$84,872 00</u>

During the past year no change in the internal management or general administration of the Hospital has been made. Under a new contract with the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, the rate of board of sick seamen entitled to the benefit of the United States Hospi-

tal Fund, has been raised from \$6 to \$7 per week. The general rate for other patients, able to contribute toward their own support, remains at \$6 per week for male, and \$5 for female patients in general wards. Persons suffering from injuries or acute diseases, requiring immediate relief, are received and treated gratuitously if unable to make compensation.

The whole number of persons who received the benefits of the New York hospital as medical or surgical patients during the year 1866, was 2,645. The average daily number has been 226.

The number of patients in the hospital on the 31st of December, 1865, was 243, and there were admitted during the year 1866, 2,402.

The hospital library in 1866, numbered 7,717 volumes.

Another institution of a similar character, but more recent in its origin, is the Massachusetts general hospital, in the city of Boston. This is a gift of the present century. Thomas Boylston, Esq., by a will proved in 1800, made the town of Boston his residuary legatee, in trust, among other objects, to erect a small-pox hospital and a lunatic asylum. He died insolvent, but his worthy example found imitators who were more fortunate. William Phillips, by a codicil to his will, proved in 1804, bequeathed the sum of \$5,000 to the town of Boston for the same object. In August, 1810, a circular letter was addressed by Drs. Jackson and Warren to the wealthiest and most influential citizens of Boston, for the purpose of awakening in their minds an interest in the subject. On the 25th of February, 1811, a charter was obtained from the Legislature. A grant was, at the same time, made of the Province House Estate, as it was called, which, however, was conditioned that, within five years, an additional sum of \$100,000 should be obtained by private subscriptions and donations. In 1813, the time was extended to an additional five years. This Province House Estate was then valued at \$20,000. In 1822 it was



estimated as worth \$40,000, and would (1853), probably sell for at least \$100,000.

Subscriptions for the hospital under this grant do not appear to have been really opened until the latter part of the year 1816, and then several ward committees were appointed, and commenced proceedings on the 26th of December of that year. On the 29th of the same month these committees reported to the board of trustees that, in three days, the subscriptions amounted to \$78,802. On the 5th of January, 1817, they had increased to \$93,969. Some of these were very liberal. The Humane Society gave \$5,000; Messrs. James Perkins, Thomas H. Perkins, and David Sears each gave the same sum. William Phillips increased his father's legacy of \$5,000 to the sum of \$20,000. The liberality thus exhibited in the commencement, secured the complete and permanent success of the institution. No difficulty was experienced in obtaining the requisite amount of subscriptions, to secure the benefits conferred by the charter.

Having thus secured the legislative grant, and encouraged by the liberality of the subscriptions, the corner stone of the Massachusetts General Hospital was laid on the 4th of July, 1818. On the day preceding, it was announced that Mr. Thomas Oliver, a Boston merchant, had made the hospital his residuary legatee, the amount derived from this bequest exceeded \$24,000. The expense of erecting the hospital building, including the cost of the real estate on which it was built, amounted to \$94,352. On the 21st of August, 1821, the buildings were so far completed that Drs. Jackson and Warren gave notice that, on the 1st of September following, the hospital would be ready for patients. On the 3d of September one patient was admitted, and not a single other application for admission was made until the 20th of September, and the records of the hospital show only eighteen admissions during that year.

The Massachusetts hospital, more than any other in this country, is a monument of individual liberality. It should, in this respect, be held up as an example worthy of imitation. Besides the gifts and legacies already mentioned, we find the following :

August, 1830,	Jeremiah Belknap, for free beds,	\$10,000
Nov., 1832, to January, 1833.	Mary Belknap,	89,882
Jan., 1841,	Mary Anne Brimmer, for free beds,	5,000
April, 1820,	Samuel Elliot, for asylum,.....	10,000
Oct., 1830,	Joseph Lee, a deceased patient,	
	stocks valued at,.....	20,000
Feb., 1824, to November, 1827.	John Mc-	
	Lean, a wealthy merchant in	
	Boston, .....	100,000
March, 1844,	Israel Munson,.....	20,000
May, 1849,	Benjamin R. Nichols,.....	6,000
August, 1831, to December, 1850.	Isaiah Thomas,	5,256
Feb., 1850,	Henry Todd,.....	5,000
Sept., 1820,	Besa Tucker,.....	5,350
July, 1823,	Abraham Tours,.....	10,000
Dec., 1845,	Daniel Waldo,.....	40,000
April, 1851,	Dr. Charles W. Wilder, for free	
	beds,.....	20,000
March, 1849,	John D. Williams, .....	13,000
"	William Appleton, .....	20,000
"	Thomas Oliver, .....	50,000
"	John Broomfield, .....	40,000
"	John Parker, .....	10,000
"	John Redman, .....	100,000

Besides, a great number of smaller gifts and legacies were received.

Contemporaneously with the efforts to establish the Massachusetts General Hospital, an asylum for the insane was in progress, and was a part of the same general enterprise. Subscriptions were taken for each, according to the wish of the subscriber.

The asylum was the first in readiness for the admission of patients, and the records show that they were received to the number of 58 in the years 1818-'19. On the 12th

June, 1826, the committee appointed to take into consideration the best mode of perpetuating the memory of John McLean, recommended that the asylum should thenceforward be known as the "McLean Asylum for the Insane," and from that time the name of the beneficent Boston merchant has been associated with this splendid charity, and both together will descend to posterity in fitting and congenial companionship. How much more desirable the monument thus reared to his memory than any sculptured marble or splendid mausoleum, for time and the elements to waste away.

The two establishments for the hospital and the asylum, including the cost of real estate, expense of building, &c., have cost over \$500,000. The present income to the hospital (1851) is \$17,000. The present invested funds, inclusive of the lot and buildings, amount to about \$200,000. Notwithstanding the very large sums received from the generous liberality of individuals, there is no excess of means, all the funds are actually required, and even more could be profitably employed.

In the year 1850 there were 746 admitted into the hospital, and in the whole thirty years, since the hospital was first opened for the reception of patients, up to and including the year 1850, the number of those who had received the benefit of the hospital amounts to 13,549. Of these, 6,265 were discharged cured, and 4,203 relieved, while 1,122 died within its walls.



The report of the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, made February 6, 1867, shows the following income:

*For Hospital:*

Board of patients,.....	\$14,977 44	
Subscriptions,.....	4,100 00	
Income of funds,.....	19,743 74	
Other funds,.....	1,082 64	
	<hr/>	\$39,903 82

*For Asylum:*

Board of patients,.....	\$125,457 64	
Income of funds,.....	7,035 18	
	<hr/>	132,492 82

*In general:*

Income of general fund,.....	\$3,538 96	
Massachusetts Hospital, Life Insurance Co,.....	15,000 00	
	<hr/>	18,538 96
Total,.....		<hr/> \$190,935 60 <hr/>
Total expenses of hospital,.....	\$68,786 80	
Total for asylum,.....	126,015 83	
	<hr/>	<hr/> \$194,802 63 <hr/>

During the year ending February 6, 1867, 1,120 patients were admitted into the hospital. Of these 623 were paying patients, 45 paying in part, and 556 free.

In April, 1865, the trustees issued a circular, setting forth the wants of the Institution. This was followed by an offer from a noble hearted citizen<sup>1</sup> of \$25,000, on condition that \$75,000 more should be raised by general subscription. Cheered by this generous offer, the trustees appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions, and in a few weeks their efforts were crowned with success, and

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<sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Thayer, Esq.

\$100,000 were added to the permanent funds of the institution. The trustees conclude their report as follows: "The acknowledgments already made to the friends of the hospital are but a small part of the gratitude which such benevolence inspires. Silent in these formal pages, but rising fervently from sick beds and scenes of suffering, the thanks of three hundred patients go out to those who have thus provided for them. Their gratitude mingles with ours, and not only towards the earthly giver, but to Him who has made this institution and its benefactors the instruments of His mercy for half a century."

These are the three great American hospitals; the first having been in operation (1852) one hundred, the second sixty, and the third, thirty years. Within the walls of these three hospitals have been received as patients, 150,755 human beings. Of this number, 100,842 have gone from them restored to health, 15,417 essentially relieved, while 14,898 have been borne to their long homes. There is a force in numbers and an eloquence in statistics that is irresistible. If it were possible for the different beds, upon which reposed those 150,755 human beings, to yield up their secrets, there would be such amounts of suffering and relief as would far exceed the powers of the human mind to form any conception of. It has taken time, money and effort to accomplish all this; and it is well that men can combine their time, money and efforts for such noble purposes:

There are a few features in common belonging equally to each one of these three great hospitals:

1st. Each of them owes its existence to the well directed energy and perseverance of individuals. It was individual enterprise and activity that, in each instance, first set in operation a train of causes that resulted in the success of the undertaking.

2d. In the commencement, and for a considerable period of the continuance of each, it was contemplated that relief should be afforded to the insane as well as the sick, and

that the purpose of an asylum should be answered equally with those of an hospital.

3d. In each case legislative aid was superadded to the results of individual effort. In this respect the New York Hospital has been much the largest recipient. It is right, in a charity so expensive and so general in its objects and aims, that both the State and individuals should unite in their contributions.

The Rhode Island Hospital at Providence is one of the most recent and noblest public charities in the country. More than \$300,000 has been contributed by generous-hearted citizens during the last five years. One person subscribed \$40,000; one, \$25,000; two, \$20,000; two, \$10,000; one, \$7,000; three, \$5,000; one, \$4,000; eight, \$3,000; ten, \$2,000; five, \$1,500; fifty, \$1,000; fifty-two, \$500, each. The balance was made up in subscriptions of from \$100 to \$400. The land, a spacious tract, on a commanding eminence sloping down to the sea, and planted with shade trees, was also a donation. The building, commenced in 1864, is one of the most complete, commodious and elegant hospital edifices in the world, and the institution is one of the noblest examples of Christian charity in the history of our country. The late Capt. Robert H. Ives of Providence has left a legacy of \$50,000 to the institution, free of government duties, in addition to a previous donation of \$10,000. Capt. Ives was a young man thirty-one years of age. He graduated in 1854. On the breaking out of the rebellion, he furnished a gunboat at his own expense, and entered the naval service of his country. He soon attained the rank of lieutenant-commander in the navy, and rendered efficient service during the war.

The whole amount of subscriptions to this hospital up to September, 1866, was \$393,762.59. The permanent invested funds amount to \$150,215.21. The cost of building was over \$200,000.

Hospitals have been founded in various other cities of



the Union—in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Troy, Buffalo, Brooklyn, Albany. The idea of a hospital in this city was suggested many years since. Nearly forty years ago a public lecture was delivered in this city by Dr. Alden March, on the “expediency of establishing a Medical College and Hospital in the city of Albany;” the city then contained about 20,000 inhabitants. The project, with occasional intermissions, was suffered to sleep until the winter of 1849, when an act of incorporation was obtained, which simply gave a legal capacity to act, but nothing further.

Under this act the governors matured and published their plan; the basis of which was to afford to those who contributed their money the opportunity of participating in the benefits of a hospital for themselves, the members of their families, or their servants, or of extending those benefits to the suffering and needy who might appeal to their benevolence. Thus, while they made their appeal to the benevolent and humane for their contributions, they offered to return a privilege which might be considered a reasonable equivalent.

From statistics collected from similar institutions, they ascertained the average time each patient was under treatment, and the average cost of each per week; and based upon this, they proposed that the contribution of \$25 for any one year, should constitute a member of that year, entitled to a ticket of admission for a patient once in the year; a contribution of \$200 should constitute a member for life, entitled to one ticket each year during life, to be used once in the year; the payment of \$100, to constitute a member for five years, with a like right to a ticket each year; a contribution of \$1,000 at one time to constitute a life member, who should be entitled at all times during his life to recommend one patient for admission to the hospital, and to repeat the same when there should be no person in the hospital on his recommendation. Such tickets or recommendations of admission should entitle

their holders to be lodged, boarded, and to receive medical treatment in the hospital, free of expense, until discharged as cured or incurable, and in the event of dying in the hospital, to be properly interred.

The establishment and success of this noble charity is a subject of real and heartfelt congratulation among all classes of our citizens. In glancing, as we have, at other institutions of the kind in the country, we derive the strongest encouragement, and entertain high expectations of its future usefulness and prosperity.

The character of a community and the spirit of its people may be judged by their public institutions and public charities. The church, the school house and the hospital, are the symbols of civilization and refinement. The pyramids erected to immortalize kings, long since forgotten, built by the unrequited labor of the poor; the temples of ancient Greece and Rome, dedicated to heathen gods, with sensual rites and bloody sacrifices; the amphitheatres, where human beings were torn and mangled by wild beasts, amid the exultant shouts of an infuriated populace, sending up the cries of Christian agony and heathen mirth, were symbols of ancient civilization. In later times, stately edifices, cathedrals, churches, universities, marvels of architectural science, adorned in the highest art of the most refined culture and taste, were erected for the use and enjoyment of the titled and the rich. But the hospital of the present age is the palace and home of the poor, the sick and the suffering.

It is not the wayside inn, of temporary shelter, but the comfortable home of the afflicted, where everything that can ameliorate human suffering and woe is provided for the poor, without price or pay. Its governors are good Samaritans, pouring out oil and wine for the bruised and the afflicted, like the companions of our Saviour, whose record of their Master's life and teaching will endure while time shall last.

## LIST OF THE FIRST

### CONTRIBUTORS TO ALBANY HOSPITAL.

Erastus Corning,.....	\$1,000	John B. James,.....	\$1,000
Marcus T. Reynolds,.....	1,000	Edward James,.....	1,000
John Townsend,.....	1,000	N. Y. Central Rail Road,....	1,000
Anthony Gould,.....	1,000	James Stevenson,.....	500
Edward C. Delavan,.....	1,000	John V. L. Pruyn,.....	500
John L. Schoolcraft,.....	1,000	S. H. Ransom,.....	500
Alexander Van Rensselaer, ..	1,000	Friend Humphrey,.....	500
Robert Boyd,.....	1,000	John F. Rathbone,.....	500
Stephen Van Rensselaer,....	1,000	Ellis Baker,.....	500
William V. Many,.....	1,000	Hamilton Fish,.....	500
John Gibson,.....	1,000	F. & Theodore Townsend,..	500
John Taylor,.....	1,000	William Newton,.....	500
Teunis Van Vechten,.....	1,000	Gideon Hawley,.....	500
Robert Dunlop,.....	1,000	Harmon Pumpelly,.....	500
Blandina Dudley,.....	1,000	Archibald McClure,.....	500
Andrew White,.....	1,000	John C. Spencer,.....	500
Silvanus J. Penniman,.....	1,000	John Knower,.....	500
Volkert P. Douw,.....	1,000	Henry & Wm. E. Bleecker, ..	500
Mrs. Cornelia Coster (late Bleecker),.....	1,000	Jacob H. Ten Eyck,.....	500
John T. Norton,.....	1,000	Ezra P. Prentice,.....	500
John Tayler Cooper,.....	1,000	J. B. Plumb,.....	500
Joel Rathbone,.....	1,000	Eliza Hunter,.....	500
William H. De Witt,.....	1,000	S. P. Jermain,.....	500
Rufus H. King,.....	1,000	Lyman Chapin,.....	500
E. F. Backus,.....	1,000	Tracey & Edson,.....	250
Clark Durant,.....	1,000	H. & Frederick Townsend,...	250
Thomas Schuyler,.....	1,000	Robert Townsend,.....	250
Catherine James,.....	1,000	John D. Hewson,.....	100
		James Gould & Co.,.....	50

When the above subscriptions had been secured through the influence of the late Hon. John C. Spencer, a temporary building on Lydius street was leased and the hospital commenced operations with about twenty patients, and continued successfully two or three years. Since the purchase of the present building on Eagle and Howard streets, the following additional subscriptions have been obtained mainly through the personal efforts of Dr. Armsby. A vast amount of provisions and supplies have also been contributed to the Hospital:

#### ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTORS.

Alden March,.....	\$1,000	Robert L. Johnson,.....	\$500
Angelo Ames,.....	1,000	Alanson Sumner,.....	500
J. J. Austin,.....	1,000	Steele & King,.....	500
Amsdell Brothers,.....	1,000	John M. Crapo,.....	500
James Schuyler, legacy,....	2,000	Albion Ransom,.....	500
Joel Rathbone, legacy,.....	1,000	Miss Margaret Ten Eyck, legacy,	500
Robert H. Pruyn,.....	1,000	Mrs. Blandina Dudley,.....	400
John Tweddle,.....	600	Charles B. Lansing,.....	350
Thomas W. Olcott,.....	500	Uri Burt & Co.,.....	300
Alexander Marvin,.....	500	C. P. Williams,.....	250
Russell Forsyth,.....	500	ThurLOW Weed,.....	250
William G. Thomas,.....	500	John G. White,.....	250



H. Q. Hawley,.....	\$250	Mrs. Samuel Patton, .....	\$100
Lewis Rathbone, .....	250	Mrs. H. H. Martin, .....	100
Treadwell & Perry,.....	250	Mrs. Thomas P. Crook, .....	100
Arthur Bott,.....	250	Mrs. Alexander Davidson,....	100
Henry & Van Allen,.....	200	Mrs. L. F. Hubbell, .....	100
F. J. Barnard & Son,.....	200	Mrs. Jacob G. Sanders,.....	100
White & Co.,.....	200	Mrs. W. C. Miller,.....	100
Orr & Cunningham, .....	200	Mrs. Geo. H. Thacher, .....	100
Adam Cook, .....	150	Mrs. Daniel Lathrop,.....	100
Littlefield & Co.,.....	150	Mrs. E. P. Wicks,.....	100
Perry & Co.,.....	150	Mrs. I. W. Vosburgh, .....	100
Shear, Packard & Co.,.....	150	Mrs. Jesse C. Potts,.....	100
A. M. Strong,.....	100	Mrs. G. C. Davidson, .....	100
M. H. Reed,.....	100	Mrs. David H. Cary,.....	100
G. Y. Lansing,.....	100	Mrs. J. H. Shear,.....	100
William Fowler,.....	100	Mrs. Thomas W. Olcott,.....	100
Van Santvoord & Co.,.....	100	Mrs. Howard Townsend,....	100
William N. Strong, .....	100	Mrs. Charles L. Elliott,.....	100
William McElroy,.....	100	Mrs. William H. Taylor,.....	100
Charles W. Durant, .....	100	Miss Jane Van Schaack, .....	100
Charles Van Benthuyzen,....	100	Miss Susan Lansing, .....	100
George C. Treadwell,.....	100	Mrs. J. C. Ward, Jr., .....	50
E. A. Durant,.....	100	Mrs. Charles Hinckel,.....	50
E. C. Clark, Jr.,.....	100	W. C. Little, .....	50
Clark, Sumner & Co.,.....	100	J. O. Towner,.....	50
C. T. Norton,.....	100	J. Douglas & Son,.....	50
James B. Kelley,.....	100	Romaine & Dunscomb, .....	50
Joshua Rathbone,.....	100	F. J. Barnard,.....	50
W. H. Gratwick & Co.,.....	100	William H. Ross & Son, .....	50
J. Benedict & Son,.....	100	W. W. Sage & Co.,.....	50
Birdsall, Fassett & Co., .....	100	Arnold & Folsom, .....	50
Sage, McGraw & Co.,.....	100	Henry Dorr,.....	50
Thomas McGraw, .....	100	Wickes & Co.,.....	50
Salisbury & Co.,.....	100	Charles Van Zandt, .....	50
Warren & Wilber,.....	100	A. B. Van Gaasbeeck,.....	50
David I. Boyd, .....	100	Abram Koonz,.....	50
Bacon & Stickney, .....	100	Lewis Rathbone,.....	50
James Hendrick,.....	100	Townsend & Chism,.....	50
J. H. Van Antwerp,.....	100	Gibson Oliver, .....	50
William Mitchell,.....	100	W. J. Blackall, .....	50
Frederick Hinckel,.....	100	C. N. Warner, .....	50
C. W. Schindler,.....	100	D. H. Woodruff,.....	50
A. F. Hedrick,.....	100	James McKinney,.....	50
George Schwartz, .....	100	Nelson Rogers, .....	50
J. D. Parsons, .....	100	J. C. Ward & Son, .....	50
Joel Munsell,.....	100	W. A. Many & Co., .....	50
Young Men's Christian Associa- tion of Mr. Ludlow's Church,	100	Michael Delehanty, .....	50
Mrs. J. H. Armsby,.....	100	Dalton & Kibbe, .....	50
Miss Cornelia Winne,.....	100	J. Douglas & Son,.....	50
Mrs. Alden March,.....	100	Simons & Griswold, .....	50
Mrs. M. E. Viele,.....	100	John Fair, .....	50
Mrs. E. S. Coles,.....	100	H. & H. Blatner, .....	50
Mrs. A. D. Lansing, .....	100	Mann, Waldmann & Co., ....	50
Mrs. John Tweddle,.....	100	Louis Cohn, .....	50
Mrs. William Newton, .....	100	William Doyle, .....	50
		St. Andrew's Society,.....	100

A large number of persons have contributed in sums of from \$5. to \$25.

The recent enlargement of the Hospital building, which has cost nearly \$12,000, is now finished and furnished, and most of the new rooms are already occupied by paying patients, which will add greatly to the permanent income of the Institution.

## First Officers of the Hospital.

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*Governors — Elected July, 1851.*

JOHN C. SPENCER, *President*,  
EZRA P. PRENTICE, *Vice President*,

ERASTUS CORNING,  
MARCUS T. REYNOLDS,  
JOHN TOWNSEND,  
JOHN TAYLOR,  
WM. V. MANY,

FRIEND HUMPHREY.

JOEL RATHBONE, *Treasurer*,  
FRANKLIN TOWNSEND, *Secretary*.

ANDREW WHITE,  
JAMES STEVENSON,  
JOHN B. JAMES,  
JOHN V. L. PRUYN,  
ROBERT H. PRUYN,

*Attending Surgeons.*

ALDEN MARCH, M. D.,  
JAMES MCNAUGHTON, M. D.,  
JAMES ARMSBY, M. D.,  
JOHN SWINBURNE, M. D.

*Attending Physicians.*

THOMAS HUN, M. D.,  
JOEL A. WING, M. D.,  
MASON F. COGSWELL, M. D.,  
HOWARD TOWNSEND, M. D.

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## Present Officers of the Hospital.

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THOMAS W. OLCOTT, *President*,  
ARCHIBALD MCCLURE, *Vice President*,

ERASTUS CORNING,  
WILLIAM H. DE WITT,  
ROBERT H. PRUYN,  
JACOB H. TEN EYCK,  
JOHN F. RATHBONE,  
SAMUEL H. RANSOM,

VISSCHER TEN EYCK, *Treasurer*,  
STEPHEN GROESBEECK, *Secretary*.

JOHN TWEDDLE,  
WILLIAM G. THOMAS,  
JESSE C. POTTS,  
ISAAC W. VOSBURGH,  
GEORGE B. STEELE,  
WILLIAM H. TAYLOR.

*Attending Surgeons.*

ALDEN MARCH, M. D.,  
JAMES H. ARMSBY, M. D.,  
JOSEPH R. BOULWARE, M. D.,  
JAMES E. POMFRET, M. D.

JAMES MCNAUGHTON,  
*Consulting Surgeon.*

*Attending Physicians.*

JAMES P. BOYD, M. D.,  
S. O. VANDERPOEL, M. D.,  
JOHN V. LANSING, M. D.,  
JACOB S. MOSHER, M. D.

THOMAS HUN,  
*Consulting Physician.*







